

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action dated August 12, 2005. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

The Applicants would like to that the Examiner for the indication that Claims 4-7 and 10 are allowed and that Claims 8-9 and 11 are allowable.

In the Office Action, Claims 8-9 rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite due to insufficient antecedence basis respectively for the terms "the adaptive filter" and "the second adaptive echo canceller section". Claims 8 and 9 are amended herein to correct, what was in effect, a clerical error, and now properly contain respective terms "the adaptive echo canceller" and "the second section" which each have proper antecedence basis. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to Claims 8 and 9 overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection be withdrawn and that Claims 8 and 9 be allowed.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,549,627 to Rasmusson et al. ("Rasmusson").

FIGs. 5 and 6 of Rasmusson each show FIR filters 415, 413 (fixed in FIG. 5 and adaptive if fixed in FIG. 6) that are utilized to provide echo cancellation to the beam former 417. As stated in Rasmusson, (emphasis provided) "each of the first and second FIR filters 413, 415 receives the signal 427 from the far-end user (that is also supplied to loadspeaker 401), and generates an estimate of the echo signal therefrom ... The resultant signals, which may already have a substantial amount of echo eliminated, are then supplied to the beamformer 417 ..." (See, Rasmusson, FIGs. 5, 6 and Col. 6, lines 5-14.) In other words, the echo cancellation is performed and the cancellation signal is feed to the beamformer!

Rasmusson does not disclose or suggest "for each of the input signals an individual processing history of adaptive echo cancelling data is kept and combined with current adaptive beamforming data" as required by Claim 1.

The present system has an advantage over Rasmusson in that "the method and device according to the present invention ... [stores] the processing history of the adaptive echo cancelling data of each input signal individually and by combining this data with current beamformer data the combined use of these data reveals

an improved accuracy of the echo cancelling process. In particular updated coefficients of the beamformer, which change faster than the maximum tracking speed of the adaptive acoustic echo cancelling filter, are available for accurately calculating echo cancelling data for each individual input signal. The adaptive echo cancelling filter, which is usually very complex and may contain up to a few thousands coefficients can now be implemented more easily, while the number of necessary calculations is reduced considerably."

(See, patent application, page 2, lines 9-18.)

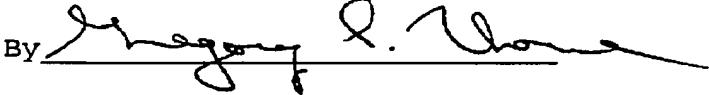
For at least this reason, the cited reference fails to anticipate the present invention as recited in Claim 1. Claims 2-30 depend from Claim 1 and accordingly are allowable for at least this reason as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of said claims. Accordingly, separate consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In addition, the Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. The Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position as well as the right to introduce relevant secondary considerations including long-felt but unresolved needs in the industry, failed

attempts by others to invent the invention, and the like, should that become necessary.

Applicants have made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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